Andhra Pradesh.

A amount of Rs. 65 crores was agreed to by the Planning Commission as an additional Central Assistance for the 'Contingency Plan' in order to accelerate development of tribal areas affected by the extremist activities. The Special Action Plan has been prepared for Rs. 65 crores. The strategy for development of remote and interior areas is to open out the areas by building roads, stepping up economic activities by providing sources of irrigation, upgradation of skills and introduction of self-employment schemes The major thrust of the development plan has been in laying arterial roads, minor irrigation and drinking water supply, which among themselves account for substantial amount out of the total outlay provided for the Action Plan.

Maharashtra

The State Government has decided to take up a Special Action Plan for certain backward talukas of Chandrapur District the whole of Gadchiroli Districts, Akkalkuwa and Dhadgaon talukas Dhule District and Kinwat taluka of Nanded District Additional outlays have been provided since the last year of the Seventh Pan Particularly for such programmes as the development of roads, water supply, public health, nutrition and education for these talukas. For the year 1991-92 Rs. 8 crores have been provided for this programme, and Rs. 50 crores for the Eighth Plan. In the Special Action Plan, emphasis has been laid on providing better facilities for communication (through road network), electrification, education, health, employment, irrigation, nutrition, etc. The State Government has also mentioned that these programmes are to be funded primarily from the normal provisions available for the district, like that of outlays under District Plan, backlog, State pool and central budget. Additional funds however, will be available wherever necessary for the successful completion of the programmes included under Special Action Plan.

Madhya Pradesh

The entire District of Bastar is being covered under Tribal-Sub-Plan. The Plan assigns high priority to development of roads, irrigation, horticulture, medical facilities and provision of drinking water. The Plan is being implemented as part of Tribal Sub-Plan of the State.

Government's interference in electronic Media

1431 SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the Prasar Bharati Bill was passed Government have clamped strict control on the electronic media, as manifest in terminating the HTV contract for organising and presenting the Khula Manch programme on TV and deputing a new party to manage the same; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such arbitrary interference of Government in the affairs of the media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has engaged M/s. HTV as Consultant for production of programme "Khula Manch". After three episodes, Doordarshan engaged M/s PTI TV as consultant for three other episodes to bring variety to the programme.

Non-aligned film and photo pool service

1432. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India proposed a plan for a non-aligned film and photo pool service to enlarge cooperation in the field of information, at the non-aligned Information and Broadcasting Ministers' conference held at Havana in September, 1990;